

2. Further Notes on Whitehead's Nuthatch. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Department of Zoology, British Museum.

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(Plate XXXVI.)

Mr. John Whitehead, to whom we are indebted for the discovery of this Corsican Nuthatch, which I have named after him, has sent me a specimen of the adult female, and I am thus enabled to give an exact description of the species, the adult male having been exhibited by me at a previous meeting of the Society (May 20).

*SITTA WHITEHEADI.* (Plate XXXVI.)

*Sitta whiteheadi*, Sharpe, *antea*, pp. 233, 329.

*Adult male.* General colour above slaty blue, the lesser and median coverts like the back; the greater coverts blackish with light edgings of slaty blue; bastard-wing feathers blackish; primary-coverts and quills blackish brown, externally slaty blue, paler on the latter; the inner secondaries externally slaty blue; two centre tail-feathers slaty blue, the remainder black, the three outer feathers slaty blue at the tips, these terminal spots decreasing in extent across the inner web, where they terminate in a white edging, the outer web also narrowly fringed with white near the end; crown of head and occiput black, disappearing on the nape; a line of greyish white across the base of the forehead extending backwards in a broad eyebrow as far as the nape; feathers round the eye whitish; lores black, as well as a broad line along the upper edge of the ear-coverts, the latter slightly spotted with white where they adjoin the eye; remainder of ear-coverts, cheeks and throat dull white, the latter slightly washed with isabelline; under surface of body ashy isabelline; the under tail-coverts edged with white; sides of body and thighs somewhat washed with ashy; axillaries and under wing-coverts like the breast, the edge of the wing whiter. Total length 4.6 inches, culmen 0.65, wing 2.75, tail 1.4, tarsus 0.65.

*Adult female.* Differs from the male in having the head slaty blue like the back, the feathers of the crown slightly mottled with blackish bases; the dark streak through the eye not quite so pronounced as in the male, and more blackish brown. Total length 4.6 inches, culmen 0.65, wing 2.75, tail 1.45, tarsus 0.7.

The nearest allies of *Sitta whiteheadi* are undoubtedly *S. krueperi* and *S. villosa*. It resembles the first of these in its small size, but differs in having the entire crown and nape black in the male, instead of only the fore part of the crown, while both sexes are at once distinguished by the want of the chestnut band on the fore neck, which is the leading characteristic of *S. krueperi*.

To *S. villosa* and *S. canadensis*, the Corsican Nuthatch bears a



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SITTA WHITEHEADI ♂ ET ♀.